IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-8 and 15-20.

9. (original) A method of shortening a footprint of a pixel in texture space, comprising:

receiving a major axis length for the footprint;

receiving a minor axis length for the footprint;

computing a logratio value using the major axis length and the minor axis length; and

modifying the logratio value based on a programmable value of a knob to produce a modified logratio corresponding to a shortened footprint.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the programmable value of the knob is used to reduce a first number of texture samples read from a texture map corresponding to LODfine.

11. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the programmable value of the knob is used to reduce a second number of texture samples read from a texture map corresponding to LODcoarse.

12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of modifying includes combining the programmable value of the knob with a LODfrac to modify the logratio value.

13. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of modifying includes determining a bias that is applied to the logratio value based on the programmable value of the knob.

14. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising a step of determining a first number of texture samples to read from a texture map based on the modified logratio.

Claims 15-20 (Cancelled)

21. (new)   A method of reducing a number of texture samples read from a texture map corresponding to LODfine, comprising:

combining a programmable value of a knob with a LODfrac to compute a modified logratio value; and

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determining the number of texture samples read from the texture map corresponding to LODfine using the modified logratio value.

22. (new)   The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of modifying the modified logratio value by applying a bias to the modified logratio.

23. (new)   The method of claim 22, wherein a second programmable knob is used to determine the bias.

24. (new)   The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of clamping the modified logratio value.

25. (new)   A method of reducing a number of texture samples read from a texture map corresponding to LODcoarse, comprising:

combining a programmable value of a knob with a LODfrac to compute a modified logratio value; and

determining the number of texture samples read from the texture map corresponding to LODcoarse using the modified logratio value.

26. (new)   The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of increasing the modified logratio value based on the LODfrac when a second knob is not equal to zero.

27. (new)   The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of modifying the modified logratio value by applying a bias to the modified logratio.

28. (new)   The method of claim 27, wherein a second programmable knob is used to determine the bias.

29. (new)   The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of clamping the modified logratio value.

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